

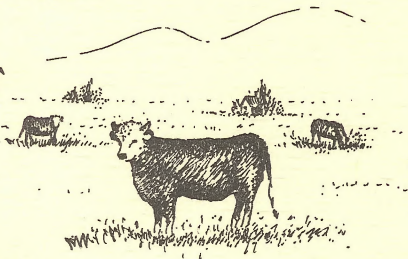


88013412

Susanville District

HONEY LAKE- BECKWOURTH

GRAZING FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



United States
Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

SF
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.C2
H66
1984



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
1792 (C-020)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
District Office
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, California
96130

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the final environmental impact statement prepared on the Proposed Domestic Livestock Grazing Management Program for the Honey Lake and Beckwourth Planning Units of Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, California, within the Susanville BLM District.

The statement was prepared pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It is based on information from the Bureau of Land Management and other sources, including Federal, State, and local agencies, and interested private organizations and citizens. As no concerns raised during the public review of the draft EIS required major revisions of the document, the final EIS has been prepared in an abbreviated format consistent with provisions of Section 1500 of 40 CFR, the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for the implementation of NEPA. The final EIS includes all comments received during the public review, responses to each comment, and required modifications of the text. This document should therefore be used in conjunction with the previously published draft EIS.

Comments on the environmental impact statement should be received by this office no later than May 13 1984 to be considered in the subsequent decision process. Your comments should be returned to:

Eagle Lake Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, California 96130

Sincerely yours,

C. Rex Cleary
C. Rex Cleary
District Manager

88013412

BLM CA ES 84 002 4100

BLM Library
D-553A, Building 50
Denver Federal Center
P. O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225-0047

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1984

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HONEY LAKE-BECKWORTH GRAZING PROGRAM

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Susanville District Office

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Ed Hansen

State Director, California State Office

MEMORANDUM
TO: SAC, NEW YORK
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
DATE: 10-10-64

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PROPOSED DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FOR THE HONEY LAKE-BECKWORTH PLANNING AREA

Type Of Action: () Draft (X) Final Environmental Impact Statement
(X) Administrative () Legislative

For Further Information Contact: Mark Morse, Area Manager
Eagle Lake Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, California 96130

Responsible Agency: U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District
Eagle Lake Resource Area

Location Of Action: Portions of the following counties within the State
of California:

Lassen Plumas Sierra

Scope: This final environmental impact statement is a broad scope analysis of the effects of implementation of a livestock grazing management plan for public grazing land within the Honey Lake-Beckworth Area. This land provides less than one percent of the forage necessary to feed the cattle within the total area. Detailed environmental assessments would be prepared on site specific projects proposed in support of the management plan.

Abstract: Alternative actions in the proposal include one or a combination of the following:

- A. Balanced use - preserve existing grazing preference and maintain or improve range condition while minimizing conflicts between livestock and other resources. This is the proposed action and preferred alternative for most of the area.
- B. Decreased livestock use - emphasize non-livestock uses and values, particularly wildlife, without completely disrupting the area's social and economic livestock base.
- C. Increased livestock use - allow a higher level of livestock use by maximizing the potential of the rangeland resource and giving priority to livestock over other competitive resources.

D. No action - preserve the status quo for livestock grazing management.

E. No grazing - allow the environment to respond to its full potential without the influence of livestock grazing.

Implementation of any of the alternatives would result in local effects on vegetation production, wildlife habitat condition, and individual livestock operators. None of the effects would be of regional or national significance.

Date By Which Comments Must Be Received:

MAY 19 1984

Location To Which Comments Must Be Sent:

Eagle Lake Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, California 96130

SUMMARY

This EIS examines 5 alternatives:

- A. Proposed Action
- B. Decreased Livestock Use
- C. Increased Livestock Use
- D. No Action
- E. No Grazing

On 4 management areas (MAs):

- 1. Honey Lake Planning Unit grazing lands.
- 2. Honey Lake Planning Unit non-grazing lands.
- 3. Beckwourth Planning Unit grazing lands.
- 4. Beckwourth Planning Unit non-grazing lands.

Dealing with 3 issues:

- 1. Wildlife-livestock conflicts (forage and special habitats).
- 2. Manageability of scattered land for livestock grazing. (Unresolved issue.)
- 3. Improving and maintaining range condition.

Concerning livestock grazing:

- On 49,350 acres of public land.
- In the Honey Lake and Beckwourth Planning Units, Susanville District, ELM.

Alternative A - Proposed Action

The objective of this alternative is to preserve existing grazing preference and maintain or improve range condition while minimizing conflicts between livestock and other resources. It is a product of land use planning, scoping sessions, public input, and individual permittee meetings. It provides the best mix to meet the overall land use goals.

Major components include:

- Allotment boundary modifications resulting in an increase of approximately 2,142 acres of leaseable grazing lands.
- Authorization of 2,085 AUMs of livestock use.
- No authorized livestock use on 5 allotments.
- Management of 5 allotments with AMPs, 17 without AMPs, 3 with cooperative agreements.
- Construction of 2 spring developments, 2 reconstructed windmills, 3.5 miles of fence, and 1 reservoir at a total cost of \$30,000.
- Livestock seasonal use adjustments on 5 allotments.
- Development of 1 HMP.

Environmental Consequences include:

- Slow overall improvement of wildlife habitat conditions with increase in deer population toward objective numbers.
- Slight increase in land manageability.
- Overall improvement in range condition.
- Slight decrease in soil erosion and compaction.
- Improvement in livestock performance.
- Slight increase in deer hunting opportunities as herd increases.
- Continued breakage and displacement of surface cultural materials by livestock with slight decrease in disturbance from soil erosion.
- Increase of \$180 annually in cattle sales.

Alternative B - Decreased Livestock Use

The objective of this alternative is to emphasize non-livestock uses and values, particularly wildlife, without completely disrupting the area's social and economic livestock base.

Major components include:

- Allotment boundary modification resulting in an increase of 1,742 acres of grazing lands.
- Authorization of 1,406 AUMs of livestock use (679 AUMs below current levels).
- No authorized livestock use on 5 allotments.
- Management of 4 allotments with AMPs, 18 without AMPs, 3 with cooperative agreements.
- Construction of 2 miles of fence and 2 reconstructed windmills at a total cost of \$16,000.
- Livestock seasonal adjustments on 15 allotments.
- Development of 1 HMP.

Environmental consequences:

- Moderate overall improvement of wildlife habitat condition with increase in deer and pronghorn populations.
- Slight increase in land manageability.
- Overall improvement in range condition.
- Decrease in soil erosion and compaction.
- Improved livestock performance.
- Slight increase in hunting opportunities as deer and pronghorn populations increase.
- Continued breakage and displacement of surface cultural materials by livestock with a decrease in allotments with decreased grazing. Decrease in disturbance from soil erosion.
- Decrease of \$9,400 annually in cattle sales.

Alternative C - Increased Livestock Use

The objective of this alternative is to allow a higher level of livestock use by maximizing the potential of the rangeland resource and giving priority to livestock over other competitive resources.

Major components include:

- Allotment boundary modification resulting in an increase of approximately 3,650 acres of leaseable grazing lands.
- Authorization of 3,322 AUMs of livestock use (1,237 AUMs over current levels).
- No authorized livestock use on 3 allotments.
- Management of 5 allotments with AMPs, 1 with a combination AMP/HMP, 17 without AMPs, and 3 with cooperative agreements.
- Construction of 1 windmill, 2 spring developments, 2 reconstructed windmills, 25.5 miles of fence, 1 reservoir, and 2,725 acres of burn and seed at a total cost of \$143,500.
- Livestock seasonal adjustments on 12 allotments.

Environmental consequences:

- Overall decline in wildlife habitat condition with failure to meet objective deer numbers.
- Reduction in deer habitat from vegetation treatments.
- Slight increase in land manageability.
- Slight overall improvement in range condition.
- Range deterioration in allotments with extended season of use.
- Increased soil erosion and compaction.
- Decreased livestock performance in extended season allotments and increased performance in seeded allotments.
- Reduced vehicle access due to additional fencing.
- Continued breakage and displacement of surface cultural materials by livestock with an increase in allotments with increased use. Slight increase in disturbance from soil erosion.
- Increase of \$9,500 annually in cattle sales.

Alternative D - No Action

The objective of this alternative is to preserve the status quo for livestock grazing management.

Major components include:

- Maintenance of existing grazing management practices, allotment boundaries, and range developments.
- Authorization of 2,085 AUMs of livestock use (current level).
- No authorized livestock use on 6 allotments.
- Management of 24 allotments without AMPs and 1 with a cooperative agreement.

Environmental consequences:

- Slow overall decline in wildlife habitat condition with probable gradual decline in deer populations.
- No improvement in land manageability with possible deterioration.
- Overall slow degradation of range condition.
- Slight increase in soil erosion and compaction.
- Water quality objectives not met.
- Continued breakage and displacement of surface cultural materials by livestock.

Alternative E - No Grazing

The objective of this alternative is to allow the environment to respond to its full potential without the influence of livestock grazing.

Major components include:

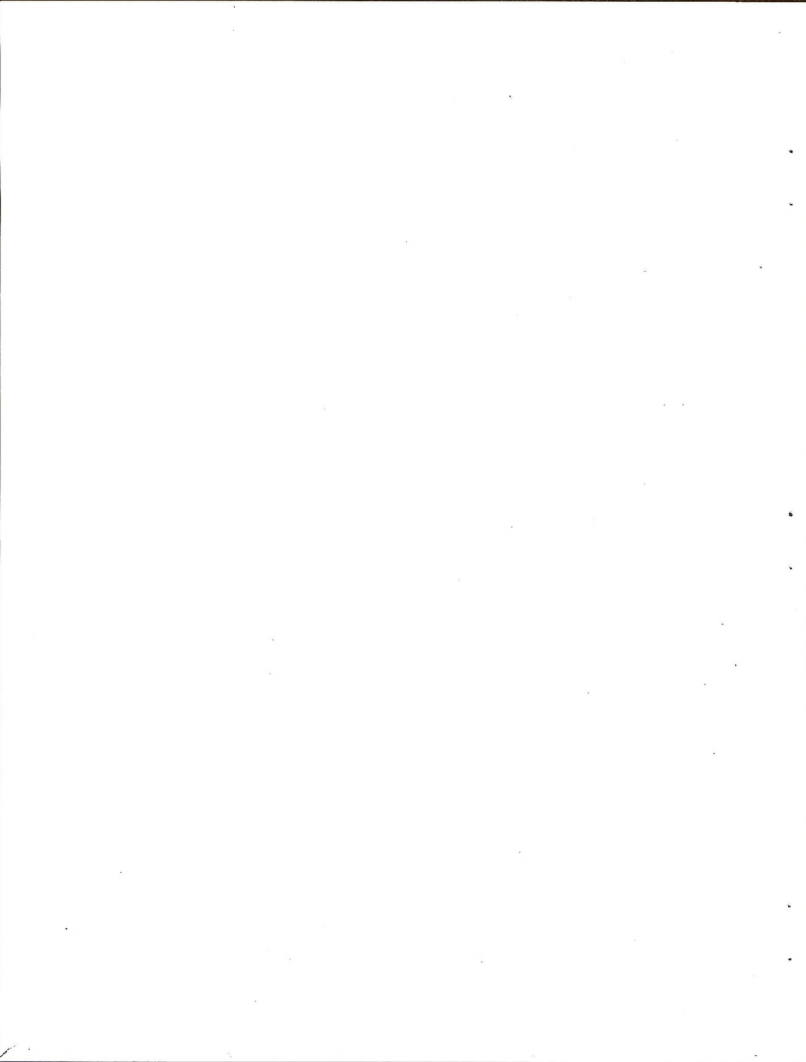
- Cancellation of all livestock grazing permits.
- Management for objective deer and pronghorn populations, and 20 to 30 wild horses.
- Construction and maintenance of improvements only to benefit non-livestock resources.

Environmental consequences include:

- Initial improvement of wildlife habitat condition with possible later habitat degradation and decrease in deer population.
- Increase in pronghorn population.
- Most present and potential livestock conflicts eliminated.
- Manageability problem partially eliminated.
- Significantly overall improvement in range condition.
- Decreased soil erosion and improved soil condition.
- Slight improvement in wild horse condition due to improved range condition.
- Potential slight initial increase in hunting opportunities, then gradual decrease as herds decrease.
- Livestock trampling of cultural materials eliminated and loss of material from erosion lessened.
- Decrease of \$29,000 annually in cattle sales.

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CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Consultation and coordination with the public and public agencies was a planned and integral part of the development of the management alternatives analyzed in this Draft EIS.

Following is a summary of the consultation, coordination, and public participation in the EIS process:

- "Target Group Analysis Chart" prepared in April, 1982, to guide staff consultation with public.
- Management identified issues and planning criteria mailed to the public and other agencies on March 16, 1982 for comment and identification of any new issues.
- Notice of Intent to revise land use plan and prepare a Grazing EIS filed with California State Clearinghouse of April 9, 1982 and published in Federal Register April 13, 1982.
- Preplanning analysis completed April 15, 1982 and available for public review.
- Need for public input in the identification of issues published in local papers in April, 1982.
- Two public meetings, one in Vinton on April 27, 1982 and one in Doyle on April 28, 1982, were held for presentation of issues and identification of any new ones.
- Area Manager and his staff contacted livestock permittees, interest groups, and other government agencies during development of land use plan recommendations.
- Final issues, planning criteria, and alternatives to be analyzed presented to the concerned public and other agencies in a mailout on June 4, 1982.

Oral comments from the public meetings, as well as written comments received, were used in the final development of alternatives analyzed in this Draft EIS. These comments, and all other public inputs, are on file and available for public review in the BLM Susanville District's Eagle Lake Area Office.

The Draft EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 9, 1983. A Federal Register Notice was published on September 16, 1983 and announced a 90 day public review period ending December 14, 1983.

The comments received on the Draft EIS have been addressed and included in this Final EIS. The District Manager next has the responsibility for preparing proposed grazing decisions from the Final EIS and additional comments received. These proposed decisions will be subject to public review and consultation before final decisions are made and implementation is begun.

LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FROM WHOM COPIES OF THE EIS WERE SENT

In addition to interested individuals, comments on the Draft AND Final EIS were requested from the following agencies and interest groups:

CONGRESSIONAL

California

Alan Cranston
Ray Johnson
Norman Shumway
Stan Statham
Pete Wilson

GOVERNMENT

Federal

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Environmental Protection Agency
North Cal-Neva RCD - Honey Lake Valley RCD - Sierra Valley RCD
Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U. S. Forest Service - Lassen, Los Padres, Plumas, Tahoe, and Toiyabe National Forests

State

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Forestry
California Department of Water Resources
California Office of Planning and Research
California State Historic Preservation Officer
California State Parks and Recreation Department
Lehontan Water Quality Control Board
Native American Heritage Commission

County

Lassen County Extension Agent
Lassen County Planning Department
Lassen County Supervisors
Plumas County Planning Department
Plumas County Supervisors

County (continued)

Plumas Sierra County Agricultural Commission
Plumas Sierra County Farm Advisor
Sierra County Planning Department
Sierra County Supervisors

INTERESTED GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS

Environmental

California Native Plant Society
NRDC
Sierra Club
Wilderness Society - Reno

Historical, Archaeology

Lassen County Historical Society
Native American Heritage Advisory Committee (Susanville)

Livestock

California Cattlemen's Association
California Wool Growers Association
District Grazing Advisory Board
Lassen County Cattlemen's Association
Planning Area Operators

Recreational

California Association of 4-WD Clubs
California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Glass Mountain Four-Wheelers
Lassen Motorcycle Club
Nevada Open Land Organized Council (NOLOC)

Forestry

W. M. Beaty and Associates
Brotherhood Timber Company
Paul Bunyan Lumber Company
Hudson Lumber Company
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Louisiana Pacific Corporation
Sierra Pacific Industries

University

Wayne Burkhardt, University of Nevada
Jim Clawson, University of California
H. Paul Friesema, NW University

Wild Horses and Burros

International Society for the Protection of Wild Horses and Burros
Wild Horse Organized Assistance

Wildlife

California Wildlife Federation
Defenders of Wildlife
Eagle Lake Audubon Society
Lassen County Fish and Game and Recreation Commission
Lassen Fin and Antler Club
Lassen Organized Sportsmen
National Wildlife Federation
Pit River Rod and Gun Club
Sierra Valley Fish and Game

Other

Environmental Impact Services
N. California Planning Council
Pacific Gas and Electric
Public Lands Commission
Tierra Madre Consultants

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

As of December 15, 1983, written comments on the Draft EIS had been received from 12 sources. Comments that question impact analysis or data, present new information, or raise questions directly bearing upon the implementation of alternatives have been given an appropriate response. Changes or additions to the DEIS have been incorporated into the errata and revisions and corrections sections of this final statement. Comments and related responses are identified by the number of the comment letter and the number of the comment in that letter. Comment letters are numbered according to their order of receipt.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811

(916) 445-8006

SEP 22 1983

In reply, refer to:
BLM 830912C

#1

Mr. C. Rex Cleary
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District Office
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Cleary:

Honey Lake-Beckwourth Grazing
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

My staff has had an opportunity to review the above-referenced document. We find that the document does not conform to the stipulations of the Grazing Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement executed between the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers. The requirements of this PMOA should be met prior to issuance of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

If you should have any questions, please contact Daniel Bell of my staff at (916) 322-8702.

Sincerely,

Marion Mitchell Apple
for

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation

N-1795H

cc: Mr. Louis S. Wall, Chief
Western Division of Project Review
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
730 Simms Street, Room 450
Golden, Colorado 80401

SEP 23 1983

ACTION:

INITIALS

DIST. MGR.

ASST. DIR.

SPEC.

PLG. & ENV.

PIO

RESOURCE

ADMIN.

OTHER

EAGLE LAKE OFFICE

HONEY LAKE OFFICE

SUSANVILLE OFFICE

YREKA OFFICE

3 Comments
4 See me

Response to Letter No. 1

1-1

The BLM has reached an agreement with the California SHPO on what steps it must take in order to bring the Honey Lake-Beckwourth EIS into compliance with both the Grazing PMOA and 36 CFR 800 (See Appendix). These steps include:

- 1) A ten percent random stratified spot inventory of the grazing lands within the EIS area will be completed. This inventory will be followed by an intensive one percent inventory of high sensitivity lands identified during the Class II.
- 2) Copies of all pertinent Class I Overviews will be sent to the SHPO.
- 3) A report covering the results of all inventories, a list of all potential National Register quality sites and area sensitivity maps will be sent to the SHPO during fiscal year 1984.
- 4) The District will conduct a yearly one percent cultural resource inventory in the EIS area until an adequate data base is formed. What consists of an adequate data base will be determined by mutual agreement between the SHPO and the District.
- 5) A copy of the Grazing PMOA is included within the final EIS.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NORTHERN DISTRICT
2440 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 607
RED BLUFF 96080
(916) 527-6530

RECEIVED

SUSANVILLE DISTRICT

SEP 30 1983



September 28, 1983

..... ARCH
..... FORESTRY
..... MINERALS
..... RANGE
..... REALTY
..... RECREATION
..... T & E
..... WATERSHED
..... WILDERNESS
..... WILDLIFE

ACTION
ROUTING &
INITIAL

CIVIL NO. 11100

#2

Mr. Rex Cleary
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Cleary:

Your Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Honey Lake-Beckwourth Grazing Management Plan has been informally reviewed by Northern District personnel.

2-1 | The report states on page 3-2 that no information is available on Sierra Valley ground water. The Department has published information on Sierra Valley ground water in Bulletin 98, "Northeastern Counties Ground Water Investigation", 1962, and in our "Sierra Valley Ground Water Study", 1983. Your planning area, which is south and east of Beckwourth, is within the Sierra Valley ground water basin. We are enclosing the summary and conclusions from this report. Mr. Ken Torrie, Chairman of the Sierra Valley Ground Water Management District, P. O. Box 653, Loyalton, CA 96118, can be contacted for further information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your report at this time. We anticipate reviewing the report again when it is received as a State Clearinghouse document.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Finlayson
Donald J. Finlayson, Chief
Northern District

Enclosure

Response to Letter No. 2

2-1 The Sierra Valley Ground Water Study has been acknowledged and information inserted into the EIS. See Revisions and Corrections for page 3-2.

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

RECEIVED
SUSANVILLE CA
OCT 13 1983

#3

ACTION
ROUTING &
INITIAL

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

730 Simms Street, Room 450
Golden, Colorado 80401
PLG & ENV

October 7, 1983

Mr. Rex Cleary
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

ASS'T DIR
PIO
RESOURCE
ADMIN
OFF
EAGLETAKE OFFICE
ATT. RAS OFFICE
CLARKVILLE OFFICE

1. Information
2. Lead Action
3. Provide Input
4. Review & Summarize
5. Comments
6. See me
7. File
8. Send Copy

Dear Mr. Cleary:

The Council received a copy of the "Honey Lake-Beckwourth Grazing Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (DEIS) on September 26, 1983. This DEIS appears to be deficient in its consideration of cultural resources. It also appears that it fails to conform to the terms of the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (PMOA) between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the Council (a copy is enclosed for your reference). Although the DEIS refers to the presence of known and the potential presence of additional National Register eligible sites, it is unclear what the basis for these statements is. They may be based on a Class I overview as required by Stipulation 1 of the PMOA. If that is the case, then this should be noted explicitly as required by Stipulation 2 of the PMOA. In addition, even if a Class I inventory of the subject areas exists, Stipulation 1 requires that BLM consult with the relevant State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine which reported sites, if any, appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

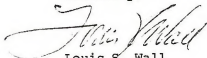
Stipulation 5 requires that BLM design grazing and range management programs so as to avoid adverse effects where such is prudent and feasible. Where it is not prudent and/or feasible to design those programs in such a way as to avoid adverse effects, then Stipulation 6 requires BLM to consult with the SHPO to design a program that will minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. There is no evidence in the DEIS that the Susanville District has complied with any of these stipulations. The Final EIS must be revised so as to reflect the requirements of the PMOA.

3-3

Furthermore, the DEIS notes that adoption of any of the alternatives will result in continuing deterioration of cultural resources. Since deterioration constitutes an adverse effect under 36 CFR Part 800.3(b)(4), BLM should initiate consultation with the SHPO pursuant to Stipulation 6(a) of the PMOA to develop mutually acceptable measures to mitigate the adverse effect of the continued deterioration of these sites.

If you have any questions or if the Council can assist you in any way, please contact Alan Downer of my staff at (303) 234-4946, an FTS number.

Sincerely,



Louis S. Wall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

Enclosure

Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation

1522 K Street NW.
Washington D.C.
20005

PROGRAMMATIC MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,
THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION,
AND THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
REGARDING THE
LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, administers public lands, principally in the 11 Western States and Alaska, under concepts of multiple-use and sustained yield, and, among other responsibilities, the Bureau of Land Management is charged with management of rangeland and forage products under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), which also charges the Bureau of Land Management with the management and protection of cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) requires that the head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal, federally assisted, or federally licensed undertaking affecting properties in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (hereafter Council) a reasonable opportunity for comment; and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing and range improvement activities undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management may have an effect upon properties in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and will require compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 2 of Executive Order 11593, May 13, 1971, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," and the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800); and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management is currently engaged in an ongoing program of rangeland management which involves the preparation, by 1988, of approximately 145 environmental statements on specific areas where grazing is permitted on approximately

Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement
Livestock Grazing & Range Improvement Program
Bureau of Land Management
Page 2

174 million acres of public lands in the Western States and has requested Council review of the rangeland management program; and

WHEREAS, the Council and the Bureau of Land Management have met and reviewed the livestock grazing and range improvement program of the Bureau of Land Management and its relation to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593, as implemented by the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800) and the responsibilities for historic and cultural resources under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality in the "National Environmental Policy Act Regulations" (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508).

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed that the Bureau of Land Management will ensure, through the stipulations outlined in this Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement, that historic and cultural properties will be given adequate consideration in grazing management program decisions and implementation which includes, but is not limited to, the preparation of grazing environmental statements, thereby meeting its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

STIPULATIONS

1. The Bureau of Land Management will conduct Class I (existing data inventory) and Class II (sampling field inventory) inventories of historic and cultural properties, as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111, to be completed at the appropriate planning stage and prior to the preparation of the draft environmental statement. Inventory results will be evaluated, in consultation with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, to identify properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
 - a. The inventory requirement may be modified on a case by case basis for interim grazing environmental statements (i.e., those prepared during fiscal years 1979 through 1981) if an alternative is acceptable to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer.

Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement
Livestock Grazing & Range Improvement Program
Bureau of Land Management
Page 3

- b. If an acceptable alternative cannot be negotiated with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, then the Bureau of Land Management will proceed with the preparation of the environmental statement and request the comments of the Council in accordance with 36 CFR 800. The Council's comments will be included in the final environmental statement.
2. This Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement and the inventory reports identifying historic and cultural properties will be referenced in each environmental statement.
3. Prior to commencement of any range improvement activities which involve land disturbance, the Bureau of Land Management will conduct a Class III inventory, as specified in the BLM Manual Section 8111.4, supplementing previous surveys to locate, identify, and evaluate properties in the impact area that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Range improvement activities which involve land disturbance include, but are not limited to, such activities as construction of fencing and corrals, water development, chaining, and controlled burning. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are found, the Bureau of Land Management will consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.
4. The Bureau of Land Management will provide the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer with copies of the reports of the Class I, II, and III inventories in accordance with Sections 102(a)(2) and 202(c)(9) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 for inclusion as part of the State inventory conducted pursuant to 36 CFR Part 61.
5. The Bureau of Land Management will design the livestock grazing and range improvement program to avoid adverse effects on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, unless this is not prudent or feasible.

Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement
Livestock Grazing & Range Improvement Program
Bureau of Land Management
Page 4

6. Where it is not prudent or feasible to avoid adverse effects on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a livestock grazing and range improvement program authorization and the property is not a National Historic Landmark or National Historic Site, the Bureau of Land Management will consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer and will:
 - a. Develop mutually acceptable measures to mitigate the impact of the proposed action; and
 - b. Notify the Council in writing of agreements reached with the State Historic Preservation Officer under the provisions of 6(a) above. The Council need not be afforded further opportunity for review and comment.
7. The provisions of this Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement shall apply to the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
8. If it is determined that the affected property is a National Historic Landmark or National Historic Site, or agreement cannot be reached between the Bureau of Land Management and the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer on satisfactory mitigation measures, the Bureau of Land Management will request the comments of the Council in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.
9. At the request of the President or a Member of Congress, the Council may advise the Bureau of Land Management, that a particular action, authorized by a grazing permit or lease, will require individual review and comment pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800. In that event, the Bureau of Land Management will comply with the provisions of the Council's regulations.
10. The Council and the Bureau of Land Management will review the provisions of this Agreement on an annual basis to determine whether modification or termination is appropriate. Should the current livestock grazing program of the Bureau of Land Management be revised, the ratifying parties will mutually determine whether the provisions of the Agreement will continue to apply.

Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement
Livestock Grazing & Range Improvement Program
Bureau of Land Management
Page 5

Robert H. Utley 8/20/79
Deputy Executive Director (date)
Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation

E. B. Hartley 12/31/79
Associate Director, Bureau of Land Management (date)

Sam E. Orr 8/26/79
President, National Conference of (date)
State Historic Preservation Officers

Robert H. Smith 11/11/79
Chairman (date)
Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation

Response to Letter No. 3

- 3-1 Cultural Resource data is based on Class I, II, and III Inventories. See Revisions and Corrections for page 3-13 and response to comments 1-1.
- 3-2 See page 2-18 of DEIS, Standard Operating Procedures, number 3 and response to comment 1-1.
- 3-3 See responses to comments 1-1 and 3-2.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 427
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA 89005

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

LC-154A

120.3

OCT 21 1983

#4

Memorandum

To: District Manager, District Office, Bureau of Land Management,
P.O. Box 1090, Susanville, California 96130

From: *ACT/DWG* Regional Director

Subject: Draft Grazing Environmental Impact Statement, Honey Lake-
Beckwourth, Susanville District (your letter in the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement received September 14, 1983)

We have reviewed the subject document and find no impact on Bureau of
Reclamation activities. The document appears adequate for the purpose
intended and we noted no deficiencies or errors significant enough to
comment on.

Larry R. Dyer

OCT 24 1983

ACTION

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGION

450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7619 (WR-RPE)

December 1, 1983

#5

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Susanville, California

From: ~~1921~~ Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Honey Lake-Beckwourth Grazing Draft Environmental Impact Statement
(DES-83/62

In accordance with your request, we have reviewed the subject document. We have no comments to offer.

CC:

WASO (762)

John Allkey

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

5150

DEC 5 1983

1. Initial _____

2. Leads _____

3. Review _____

4. Summary _____

RECEIVED

SUSANVILLE
DEC 14 1983

Resources Building
1216 Ninth Street
95814

(916) 445-5656

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA



ARC
FORESTRY
MINERALS
RANGE
REALTY
RECREATION
T & E
WATERSHED
WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

#6

Mr. C. Rex Cleary
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

December 12, 1983

Dear Mr. Cleary:

The State has reviewed the draft EIS, Honey Lake - Beckwourth Grazing, submitted through the Office of Planning and Research in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Review was coordinated with the State Water Resources Control Board, State Lands Commission, and Departments of Conservation, Fish and Game, Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, Food and Agriculture, and Transportation.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) recommends the consideration of the following for modifying and clarifying the final report:

- 6-1 | 1. Page iii, MAS. DFG recommends deleting (unresolved issue), or explaining what the issue is. It is covered on page 1-3.
- 6-2 | 2. Page iv, Alternative A. An increase of \$180 annually is not an environmental consequence.
- 6-3 | 3. Page 1-1. This page includes the first reference to maps, which depict BLM lands as "public lands". This could be confusing, because substantial acreages of Forest Service, DFG, and State lands are also public lands which occur here. Map legends should indicate this. Also, Hartson Lake is mislabeled as Hartman Lake.
- 6-4 | 4. Page 2-1, Item 2, 11. This should include reference to sage grouse habitats. DFG finds no subsequent reference to item 11.
- 6-5 | 5. Page 2-19. Although DFG is pleased to see the statements under Land Treatments, the recent prescribed burn on Snowstorm Mountain in this same Resource Area did not reflect these considerations.
- 6-6 | 6. Page 2-25, Table 2-6, Alternative A#4. The proposed alternative would result in slight improvement of special habitat types "except poor condition meadows." If this alternative is balanced, DFG would expect that poor condition meadows would improve. The final report should discuss this.

- 6-7 | 7. Pages 3-4 through 3-7. The word "acres" should be added as appropriate.
- 6-8 | 8. Page 3-8. Lomatium ravenii should be considered endangered until it has been delisted.
9. Page 3-11. Reference is made to the Doyle Deer Herd Management Plan. The draft plan has already been reviewed by appropriate public agencies, including the BLM Susanville District. A final draft is nearly complete based upon input received. The proposed population objective established in the plan is 15,000 animals--a 50 percent increase over the present population. This is a consensus of expertise of all the public agency biologists concerned with management of the Doyle herd. It is felt that the potential is there, on both public and private lands, and may include habitat improvement as well as maintenance and preservation.
- 6-9 | While preferred alternative A does provide the best resource management and improvement mix, DFG has some concerns regarding the general tone of impacts on deer habitat. DFG refers to page iv, ... "possible (DFG emphasis) increase in deer population." Page 2-25, ... "Probable increase" ... in deer populations. Although BLM ownership of Doyle Deer Herd range is admittedly moderate, there is concern that "possible" and "probable" meet the innate commitment contained in the deer herd plan objectives, which the BLM District showed no objection to during plan review.
- 6-10 | The first sentence of paragraph one, page 3-11, states that deer populations are declining due to inadequate winter range. Recent indications are that summer ranges may also be habitat deficient.
- 6-11 | In paragraph three, Pronghorn, the small population of pronghorn now established in the Sierra Valley should be mentioned.
- Mountain quail occur on Fort Sage Mountain in sage/juniper habitat. Populations in the oak/conifer areas are considered moderate to good.
- 6-12 | The sage/juniper and riparian habitats in the planning unit are an important breeding area for mourning dove. These habitats support high dove populations during late spring and summer.
10. Page 3-12, Waterfowl. Leavitt Lake supports heavy waterfowl populations at times. The Honey Lake and the Sierra Valley areas are important to migratory waterfowl as well as resident populations.
- 6-12 | This section should mention golden eagles, prairie falcons, and other nongame birds of high interest.

Page Three
C. Rex Cleary

- 6-13 | 11. Page 4-26, Mitigation Measures #3. Fencing and/or rehabilitating degraded meadows would help reduce or eliminate adverse impacts identified in this chapter. By mentioning this mitigation measure, it is apparent that it has already been considered. DFG recommends that BLM take corrective action rather than monitor continuing degradation of meadow values, which Table 2-6 states will decline.
- 6-14 | 12. Page 4-27, Item 6. Wild horses compete with livestock and wildlife for water and forage. BLM's authority and intent to enhance populations of wild horses by instituting mitigation measures to protect those populations from natural mortality should be clearly stated and referenced within the report. Wild horses can enter the allotment without the construction of fence gaps, and it seems possible that they could leave the allotment in the same manner.

Questions regarding DFG's comments should be directed to A.E. Naylor, Regional Manager, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001.

The Department of Parks and Recreation's Office of Historic Preservation comments that the project is subject to provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The BLM, therefore, should submit the required documentation to the Office of Historic Preservation before the final report is completed.

Sincerely,



GORDON F. SNOW, Ph.D
Assistant Secretary for Resources

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 83091902)

Response to Letter No. 6

- 6-1 See Errata.
- 6-2 In the environmental analysis process, social and economic, or human impacts, are taken into consideration and are included as environmental consequences.
- 6-3 The official designation of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management is "public lands" and the scope of this EIS is to consider only public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the Honey Lake and Beckwourth Planning Units. Also, see Errata concerning lake name correction.
- 6-4 See Revisions and Corrections for page 2-1. Concerning item 11, page 3-3 states that no Federally listed plants were found in the planning area and page 3-8 discusses the only state listed plant in the planning area. Also, see response to comment 6-8.
- 6-5 Unfortunately, the Snowstorm prescribed burning did not meet all of the concerns for the wildlife resource, but because of the wildlife concerns only 35-40% of the area was burned instead of 100%.
- 6-6 In the ideal situation where the Bureau has full responsibility for management, improvement would be expected. For the majority of meadows this is not the case. See response to comment 6-13.
- 6-7 See Revisions and Corrections for pages 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, and 3-7.
- 6-8 Lomatium ravenii was only mentioned as being a state listed plant present within the planning area and falls outside the scope of this EIS which concerns impacts from livestock grazing. The areas where Lomatium ravenii occurs in this planning area are not within areas managed for livestock grazing and will soon be transferred to the state of California.
- 6-9 See Revisions and Corrections for page iv and 2-25 of DEIS.
- 6-10 Summer range occurs primarily outside of the planning unit. No change.
- 6-11 See Revisions and Corrections for page 3-11.
- 6-12 Only those species expected to be significantly impacted are discussed. See page 3-8 Wildlife.

Response to Letter No. 6 (cont.)

- 6-13 In the Honey Lake and Beckwourth Planning Units the meadow vegetation type makes up a very small percentage of the land acreage. The few meadows there are, are very small in acreage and usually lie partially on private lands making management of these meadows difficult. On the only feasible poor condition meadows to be rehabilitated, a grazing system will be implemented to provide periodic rest and improve condition. In addition, other methods will be used, ie. gabions, to improve these meadows.
- 6-14 Since the writing of the DEIS, an existing fence was discovered in the area where there was concern for interference of wild horse movement. There are existing horse trails around this gap fence allowing sufficient horse movement. In the other gap fence location wild horse movement will not be impeded due to topography and fence location. For these reasons, it will not be necessary to leave the gates open after the grazing season to allow for wild horse movement.

12-14-83

#8

Dear Sir

In reply to the Honey Lake,
Beckwourth, grazing & environmental
impact statement. We feel that
Alternative "A". Proposed action would
be best suited for our range.

We feel that the Killebra et al
range, that it could be improved
by burning & reseeding. It would
help back deer & cattle grazing.

Sincerely,
Harry Killebra & Betty
Harry Killebra - et al.

Harry Dillner

Dept. of Interior

RECEIVED

DEC 15 1983

BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

SANVILLE, IN FORM

Defenders

OF WILDLIFE

C. Rex Cleary
District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

----- ARCH
----- FORESTRY
----- MINERALS
----- RANGE
----- REALTY
----- RECREATION
----- T & E
----- WATERBOD
----- WILDERNESS
----- WILDLIFE

ACTION	ROUTING & INITIAL
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_____	SECT
_____	PLG & Proj#9
_____	PIC ✓
_____	SUPERVISOR
_____	ATTN
<i>[Signature]</i>	
DATE _____ TIME _____	
FACILITY OFFICE FILE	
AIRPORT OFFICE FILE	
COMMODITY OFFICE FILE	

Defenders of Wildlife submits this letter as our brief comments and recommendations on the Honey Lake-Beckwourth Grazing Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

After reviewing the five alternatives described in the DEIS, we generally support--and urge BLM to implement--Alternative "B"; "Decreased Livestock Use." We believe this is the most reasonable alternative because it would improve range condition, reduce erosion, and benefit wildlife. At the same time, it would not significantly disrupt current economic uses. Indeed, the estimated decrease of \$9,400 annually in cattle sales appears to be a relatively slight disadvantage when compared to the improvement in poor range condition and other forage, wildlife, and recreational advantages. We are disappointed, however, that (page 4-27) an "unavoidable adverse impact" for all four of the realistic alternatives (excluding "E"-- No Grazing) is the continued degradation or deterioration of riparian, meadow, and other special habitat types. This is completely unacceptable. The harm to riparian, meadow, and other special habitat types is avoidable through fencing and other methods. The four alternatives, including "B", are legally (NEPA) and biologically deficient for not including adequate mitigation measures to protect these important habitats. Finally, we feel the DEIS's consideration of wildlife impacts is predominantly slanted toward game species, especially deer and antelope. BLM continues to give short shrift to the vast array of so-called nongame species, including those dependent on the riparian, meadow, and other special habitat types. We hope this bias will be corrected to ensure that both game and nongame species receive full and fair consideration.

Thank you very much for considering our views. We would appreciate a copy of the Final EIS.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts
California Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
5604 Rosedale Way
Sacramento, CA 95822

Response to Letter No. 9

- 9-1 See response to comment 6-13.
- 9-2 See first paragraph under Wildlife, page 3-8 of DEIS.

Response to Letter No. 10

10-1 Large scale removal of sagebrush is not in the best interest of deer winter range as sagebrush can become a significant portion of the winter diet and provides cover.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

#11

DEC 14 1983

Mark Morse, Area Manager
Eagle Lake Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

EAGLE LAKE OFFICE
RECEIVED

DEC 15 1983
BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Morse:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled PROPOSED DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE HONEY LAKE-BECKWORTH PLANNING AREA. We have the enclosed comments regarding this DEIS.

We have classified this DEIS as Category LO-2 (lack of objections - more information needed). The classification and date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send three copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Kahn Barsamian, Chief, EIS Review Section, at (415) 974-8188 or FTS 454-8188.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Murray, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Policy, Technical, and
Resources Management

Enclosure (1)

Water Quality Comments

- 11-1 | 1. The FEIS should provide a statement on existing and projected water quality conditions for each alternative. The statements should include water quality objectives, goals and best management practices for protection of water quality under each alternative.
- 11-2 | 2. The FEIS should clarify the statement on page 4-6 under Water Resources that "there would be no detectable area-wide increase in water quality." Specific information on the quality of water referenced and substantiation for the statement should be provided..

Response to Letter No. 11

- 11-1 On page 3-2 existing water quality conditions are stated. In each alternative in the Environmental Consequences Section, projected water quality conditions are discussed under Water Resources. Under Standard Operating Procedures on page 2-18 the BLM Best Management Practices are referenced.
- 11-2 The sampling of waters within the planning units is mentioned on page 3-2. Information and results can be found at the Susanville District Office. The change in management as discussed in the Proposed Action will have very little impact upon the existing water quality.

RECEIVED

DEC 22 1983

BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

720 Washoe
Susanville

Dec. 15, 1983

#12

Mr. Rex Cleary
BLM Susanville
705 Hall Street
Susanville

Re: Honey Lake - Beckwourth Grazing DEIS

Dear Rex:

I have no major problem with the proposed action, given the scattered land configuration and the limited options available to BLM, including investment options. However, as a recreationist on the public lands and appreciator of environmental resources, I would like to see the DEIS better address such resources it has skimmed over.

SOIL Page 4-6 refers to continued degradation in soil values with the preferred alternative in cases of poor condition meadows. While I appreciate the statement's honesty, couldn't something affirmative be done to repair this past damage and to prevent further lowering of the water table? Fencing the meadows, livestock grazing systems and better distribution, and manpower work programs come to mind. Page 4-25 refers to it as "artificial assistance" and I would support it.

RIPARIAN AREAS I cannot find coverage of riparian areas in the DEIS. This is one of the public lands most valuable, most sensitive, and unfortunately, most abused resources. For the ones in degraded condition, I would suggest the same sorts of restorative and preventative treatments as mentioned above. The No Grazing Alternative (p. 4-25) would cause improvement in riparian areas. Can the proposed action be modified to include some too? You might consider some innovative and inexpensive measures that have worked very well in Wyoming -- introduction of beavers (see attached). Without specific discussion of riparian areas in the DEIS, however, I cannot determine what measures are appropriate.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC) FLPMA requires that ACEC's be priority considerations in the planning process. I can find no mention of ACEC's or possible candidates. Page 2-1 mentions areas of "special" environmental concerns, but the subject is dropped. Are there any candidate ACEC's? How do you propose to protect them.

WILDLIFE. I find the wildlife issue handled superficially. What are the specifics of the bald eagle situation (beyond the brief mention on page 3-12)? And what opportunities are there for habitat improvement -- or just maintenance? Sage grouse are a rare and declining resource on the Susanville District. I would like to see more about their condition and trend and about opportunities for their increase through habitat improvement. The pronghorn antelope is a favorite game species and one enjoyed greatly by wildlife viewers. Can the habitat be further improved? Are the new fences required to allow their passage?

LAND DISPOSAL I am relieved to not see this in the DEIS. I support deferring this issue. These parcels are often more valuable in public ownership than private, and even the ones who aren't are more valuable as part of a land exchange than as part of the Administration's effort to sell land to reduce the National debt.

GRAZING A substantial 51% and 40% respectively of the two planning units are in poor range condition. While the proposed action makes small progress, much of the land will never recover. And as stated (p. 3-3) the main cause was "historic heavy grazing by livestock." This is BLM's unfortunate legacy. But I hope you will increase efforts to improve that legacy and improve range condition in these planning units as well as all other planning units on the Susanville District.

Response to Letter No. 12

- 12-1 The scope of this Grazing EIS is to analyze the affects of implementation of a livestock grazing management plan and amend the grazing portion of the existing management plans. Initial public meetings (Draft EIS page 5-1), and input from District Resource Specialists brought about no other resource issues other than those mentioned on page iii nor any need for changes in any other portions of the existing management plans which remain in affect.
- 12-2 Refer to Response to Comments number 6-6 and 6-13.
- 12-3 After talking with Bruce Smith, Wildlife Biologist from Rock Springs BLM, the areas he was working in are not similar to the areas within the Honey Lake-Beckwourth Planning Units and therefore introduction of beaver is not appropriate.
- 12-4 See response to comment 12-1. There are presently no candidate ACEC's in the planning area.
- 12-5 Although all inventory information is open to the public, specific information on endangered species is not usually published. Also, specifics such as Sage grouse condition and trend are not within the scope of the grazing EIS. See also response to comment 12-1.
- 12-6 See response to comment 12-1. See item 4. under Standard Operating Procedures page 2-18 and paragraph under Fences page 2-19.

REVISIONS AND CORRECTIONS

This portion of the FEIS includes revisions and corrections made to the DEIS. Consequently, the page numbers listed below refer to the DEIS.

Page iv, change the first sentence at the top of the page to read: "Slow overall improvement of wildlife habitat conditions with increase in deer population toward objective numbers."

Page 2-1, item 2., after "pronghorn kidding grounds," insert "sage grouse concentration area,".

Page 2-25, fifth paragraph under Proposed Action, change to read: "Fluctuation in deer populations with increase toward objective numbers."

Page 2-28, Table 2-6, under Proposed Action, change paragraph opposite Wild Horses to read: "There will be no impact on wild horse movement with the addition of a gap fence on the West Fort Sage/Summit Allotment."

Page 3-2, delete the last sentence at the bottom of the page and add: "The ground water basin underlying Sierra Valley is important to existing farming, ranching, and wetland habitat. Smithneck Creek drainage is an important ground water recharge area for the eastern half of the basin. The best quality water is found around the borders of the basin and the poorest in the west central part (Dept. of Water Resources, 1983)."

Pages 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, and 3-7, add "ACRES" under "(Management Area ___)" in table headings.

Page 3-11, at the end of the first paragraph under Pronghorn add: "There is also a small population of pronghorn in Sierra Valley."

Page 3-11, under Mountain Quail, replace the first sentence with the following: "Mountain quail occur on the Fort Sage Mountains in sage/juniper habitat. Populations in the oak/conifer areas are considered moderate to good."

Page 3-11, under last paragraph Mourning Dove, after "pine associations." add the following sentence: "The sage/juniper and riparian habitats in the planning unit are an important breeding area for mourning dove."

Page 3-13, delete the two paragraphs under Cultural Resources and replace with the following:

"Class I overviews of the Honey Lake-Beckwourth EIS Area
(Christenson (1983), Johnson and Budy (1982), Pendleton,

McLane and Thomas (1983), Roberts (1980) and Theodoradus (1979)) suggest that the EIS area contains the potential for an unknown number of National Register quality sites. A check of the National Register of Historic Places shows no recorded National Register sites within the exact EIS area.

Class II intensive inventories for both the Honey Lake Geothermal Area and the State Land Exchange (Bard 1976) have identified numerous cultural resources, some of which have National Register quality. Additional Class II inventories of adjacent areas (Cal-Neva and Willow Creek Planning Units) indicate that many National Register quality sites are found just outside of the EIS area. Limited inventories of parts of the EIS area have identified several potential National Register quality sites within the Fort Sage, Bald Mountain and Beckwourth areas. A class II inventory is being conducted within the EIS area in order to define its cultural values and establish an adequate data base. A report covering all inventories and relevant data will be completed by October 1984."

Page 4-6, change last paragraph Wild Horses to read: "The addition of a gap fence on the West Fort Sage/Summitt Allotment will not restrict wild horse movement. No mitigation measures needed."

Page 4-27, delete item 6. under Mitigation Measures.

Page LC-1, Literature Cited, add the following:

Bard, J.C. 1976. An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Selected Areas of Honey Lake Island, Lassen County, California. MS on file, Bureau of Land Management, Susanville, California.

Christenson, A.L. 1983. An Archaeological Overview and Management Plan for the Sierra Army Depot. Wirth Environmental Services, San Diego, California.

Johnson, James and E. Budy. 1982. Cultural Resource Overview, Lassen National Forest; Volume One, Cultural History. USDA, Lassen National Forest.

Pendleton, L.S. and A.R. McLane and D.H. Thomas. 1982. Cultural Resource Overview, Carson City District, West Central Nevada. USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada.

Roberts, L.J. 1980. Historical Overview of a Portion of Lassen and Modoc Counties, California. Pacific Palisades, California.

Theodoradus, D. 1979. Anthropological Overview of a Portion of Lassen and Modoc Counties, California. MS on file, Bureau of Land Management, Susanville, California.

ERRATA

This portion of the FEIS identifies and corrects errors in the DEIS. Consequently, the page numbers listed below refer to the DEIS.

Page iii under MA's, item 2., delete "(Unresolved issue.)" and move it to the end of item 2. under third paragraph, issues.

Page 3-11, last paragraph, spelling should be "Mourning Dove".

Map pocket, change the name "Hartman Lake," north of Honey Lake, to "Hartson Lake" on all 9 maps.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Susanville District

P. O. Box 1090

Susanville, California

96130

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

8100 (C-020)

NOV 21 1983

Dr. Knox Mellon
Attention Dan Bell
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Dr. Mellon:

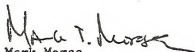
In reply to your letter of September 22, 1983, we propose to complete the following to bring the Honey Lake/Beckwourth EIS into compliance with the Grazing P.M.O.A.:

1. In order to form an adequate data base for the EIS area, we will initiate a Class II Random Stratified Spot Inventory of the EIS area. This inventory will provide a basis for a one percent intensive inventory of sensitive areas within the EIS area. In addition, we will sample a further one percent of the area on a yearly basis until an adequate data base is formed. Until the results of the inventories are in, we believe that our District Standard Operating Procedures, as outlined in the DEIS (2-18), will insure that no National Register Quality sites will be impacted without first consulting your office.
2. The results of all inventories, a list of all potential National Register Quality Sites, and sensitivity maps for the EIS area will be provided to you as part of a report to be prepared by this office in FY 84.
3. We will provide copies of all pertinent Class I Overviews to you.
4. We will include a copy of the Grazing P.M.O.A. in the final copy of the Honey Lake/Beckwourth EIS.

Page 2

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Don Manuel at (916) 257-5381.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Morse", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Morse
Area Manager

cc:
SD (C-931.4)
Mr. Louis S. Wall

DWM

District Office
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, California
96130

8100 (C-020)

FEB 10 1984

Dr. Knox Mellon
Attention: Dan Bell
State Historic Preservation Office
California Department of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2340
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Dr. Mellon:

Enclosed is a copy of Sites with Cultural Significance for the Up River Bands of the Pit River Indian Tribe, by Roybal and Evans and A Cultural Resource Overview, Carson City District, West Central Nevada by Pendleton, McLane and Thomas. Both of these are Class I overviews that are relevant to the Susanville District, Bureau of Land Management.

If you have any questions, please call Don Manuel at (916) 257-5381.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT J. SHERVE
C. Rex Cleary
District Manager

Enclosures

ACTING

MANUEL:lw:02/10/84:240

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Denver, CO 80225

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McGourth

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